



QLYC

THE LADY NELSON TROPHY.

Sat April 13 2013.

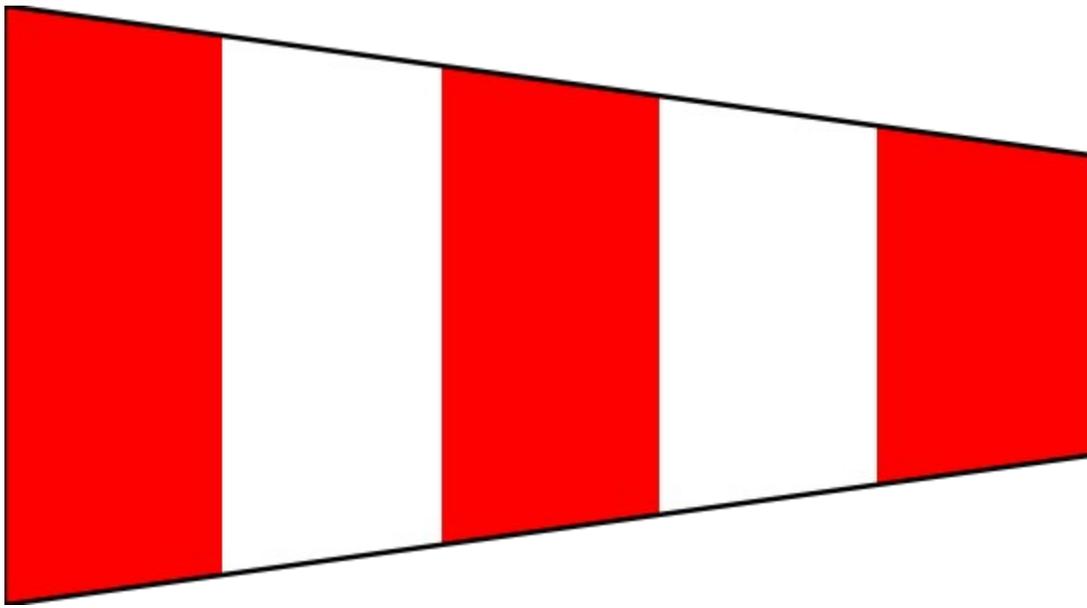
“Hares And Tortoises.”

After days of settled sunny weather, race day dawned overcast and the B.O.M. had issued a strong wind warning, promising up to 30 knots by late morning. However, the weather gods, famous for their pig-headed illiteracy, turned on a light northerly and a calm sea for the noon briefing outside the **Harbour Office**. Nine vessels with more than thirty sailors were signing-on while the recently returned (from Van Diemen's Land) **Club Commodores** were warmly welcomed.

Commodore Jill warned all of the approaching Commodore's Cup and the Commodore's Cocktail Party. The **Club Captain** and the **OOD** (Ian Lee) briefed the assembly and warned that individuals were responsible for their safety and the preservation of their property. The course was to be posted on *Swan Rescue* on station at Grassbeds.

Out on the water, the wind was still from the north at about 10 knots. As the competitors sailed backwards and forwards, *Swan Rescue* showed a number indicating **Revised Course 2**. But the wind changed to **West** and increased to 15 knots.

All eyes were watching for the *Swan Rescue* for the flags of the starting sequence. Up popped



“All races not started are postponed.”

The **OOD** changed the course to **Revised Course 5**.



While *Tiercel* held *Indulgence* in a discussion about the course, *Nellie* (above), the only other **Division One** vessel made a perfect start with *Indulgence* lately lamely following a minute behind. The first mark was **Draper's Reef Pile**. *Nellie* maintained her lead on the next leg towards the **Wedge**.

Meanwhile **Division 2** started.

This group moved slowly into the flood tide towards **Drapers**. *Zen* was soon in the lead of this group containing *Christabelle*, *Fancy*, *Tiercel* and *Wave Dancer*.



Tiercel chose an inshore course.



But back at the start it was time for **Division 3**.



Imagine and *Sundance* powered after the rest of the fleet some of which was now on the leg **Wedge Grassbeds** with others still between **Drapers** and **The Wedge**.

There were some exciting moments at roundings.



The fleet returned to **The Wedge** from **Grassbeds**, and then aimed at **Drapers**. *Zen*, *Sundance*, and *Imagine* had moved through the fleet with *Imagine* taking the lead. *Zen* kept up gamely, being the only competitor to fly a spinnaker; the rather turbulent conditions did not deter the expert spinnaker handlers (Bob Mayne and Peter Norman) in her crew.

Nellie and *Indulgence* continued to maintain a handsome lead over *Fancy*, *Christabelle*, *Tiercel*, and *Wave Dancer* on this leg and on the return from **Drapers** to **The Wedge**. But, on the return to **Drapers**, positions changed.



Wave Dancer overhauled *Fancy* and both got past *Indulgence*. *Nellie* went too far south near **The Stones (Pope's Eye Annulus)**, and was then drawn further to the south by the east-going stream whereas vessels who had pinched to keep well north of **The Stones** found themselves in the north-going stream, which, on starboard tack took them towards the longed-for **Draper's Reef Pile**. Eager eyes on *Indulgence* saw **Flag S** flying on *Swan Rescue* and *Imagine* was charging towards the line.



After *Imagine* came *Sundance* then *Zen*, followed by almost a twenty minute holiday for the crew of *Swan Rescue*, until *Wave Dancer* crossed the line just ahead of *Fancy*.

But, **after the real finish**, the handicapper's favours were bestowed: miles in front we found two tortoises: *Fancy* followed by *Indulgence*; then a hare, *Imagine*. Later came *Nellie*, *Zen*, and *Wave Dancer*. Much later (in handicap terms) were *Sundance*, *Tiercel*, and *Christabelle* (foaming along, below).



Thank you to our race officers Ian and Bev Lee and Jennifer Gilbert, and to Ian Lee for photographs.

The Next Club Event is a Race for
THE COMMODORE'S CUP. 20/4/2013.

Followed By

From 6-30 PM

At The Club House



THE FABULOUS COMMODORE'S COCKTAILS.